

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE 37TH ANNUAL HUMANITARIAN AWARD WINNERS

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the winners of the 37th annual Humanitarian Awards. These men and women have fought hard to ensure improved lives for others. They have each shown a tremendous dedication to reducing bigotry and injustice in the Memphis community. This year's award winners are: Rabbi Harry Danziger of Temple Israel; Retired Criminal Court Judge H.T. Lockard; Bishop J. Terry Steib of the Catholic Diocese of Memphis; and Dr. Jane Walters, state education commissioner.

These awards, as presented by the National Conference of Christians and Jews (Memphis Region), recognize the leaders in our community who have gone beyond their call to ensure a better, more equitable future for all of us.

Rabbi Danziger is a lifetime board member of NCCI as well as a member of the boards of the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association and the Memphis Jewish Federation. Danziger is a long time leader in Memphis' Jewish Community.

Judge Lockhardt served for 19 years on the bench before retiring in 1994. As an attorney, he was involved in numerous cases that helped end the bitter segregation in education, and in public facilities. Judge Lockhardt will always be remembered as the first African-American elected to old Shelby County (TN) Court.

In addition to his important work with the Catholic Diocese in Memphis, Bishop Steib is a board member of the National Civil Rights Museum and the African-American Bishops' Committee. Bishop Steib, through his service to these organizations, has worked tirelessly to bring together people from all backgrounds, classes and races.

Another deserving winner of the NCIC Humanitarian Award is Dr. Jane Walters. As an educator, Dr. Walters has devoted her career to improving the lives of others. She has touched the lives of countless young Tennesseans, first as teacher, as Principal of Craigmont High School in Memphis and now as Governor Sundquist's Commissioner of Education in the State of Tennessee.

Under her leadership as Principal of Craigmont, the school was designated by the Department of Education as a Blue Ribbon School. Today, as Commissioner of Education, Tennessee is well ahead of the nation in connecting all of the state's schools to the Internet. The Horatio Alger Association named her National Educator of the Year in 1991. We are all grateful to Dr. Walters for her contributions in the field of education.

These men and women can not be praised enough for their contributions. With a tremendous amount of hard work and foresight, these

individuals are determined to eliminate bias, bigotry and racism in our community. Honoring these heroes is a perfect way to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the NCCJ.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 37th annual Humanitarian Award Winners.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today was to be the day that the House of Representatives finally debated campaign finance reform. After over a year of lobbying by a majority of the members of the House to consider some form of campaign finance reform legislation, the leadership had finally relented and were to allow this day to be dedicated to this very important issue.

Unfortunately the leadership of this House designed a bill that was destined to fail, and the majority of the House rejected that approach. So here we stand, with no bill to debate and no assurances of when we will finally have our chance.

The solution is simple: allow an open rule on campaign finance reform. It is time we end the political games and give members an opportunity to clearly state, on the record, where they stand on cleaning up our campaign finance system. We have waited too long. It is time to stop the delay and allow a vote on campaign finance reform. The people of my district will not accept "no" for an answer.

THE MEDICARE SOCIAL WORK EQUITY ACT OF 1998

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce The Medicare Social Work Equity Act of 1998.

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 includes a provision that will discourage nursing homes from utilizing social workers. This unintended consequence occurs because the legislation requires social workers' services to be included in the consolidated billing of the nursing home while psychologist and psychiatrist services remain outside of the consolidated billing.

Under this construction, if a nursing home utilizes social workers' services, those dollars come out of the nursing home payment. Psychologist and psychiatrist payments do not. The effect of such a policy will be to encourage nursing homes to avoid social workers and instead rely on the more expensive services of psychologists and psychiatrists.

Several firms that provide mental health services to nursing homes across the country

have already informed me that they will cease hiring social workers and replace them with psychiatrists and psychologists beginning July 1, 1998.

Clinical social workers are the primary providers of mental health services to residents of nursing homes, particularly in underserved urban and rural areas. Without correcting legislation, mental health services to nursing home residents will be reduced and Medicare costs for these services will most likely increase.

I do not believe that Congress intentionally created this problem. The Medicare Social Work Equity Act of 1998 seeks to address these concerns by excluding clinical social workers from the consolidated billing provisions of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 and treating them identically to other mental health providers.

This bill has been endorsed by the National Association of Social Workers, the Clinical Social Work Federation, the American Health Care Association and the National Citizens' Coalition for nursing Home Reform. Several firms that provide mental health services to nursing homes across the country have also pledged their support. I am attaching a letter I received from one such firm, MHM/Bay Colony Counseling Services.

I urge my fellow Members of Congress to join with me in passing this crucial piece of legislation. Together, we can ensure that social workers continue to provide essential mental health services to nursing home residents.

MHM/BAY COLONY
COUNSELING SERVICES,

Cambridge, MA, March 10, 1998.

Representative FORTNEY "PETE" STARK,
House of Representatives, Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE STARK: I am contacting you to extend my enthusiastic support for your efforts in pursuing the Medicare Social Work Equity Act of 1998 which excludes social workers from the new consolidated billing requirement in skilled nursing facilities.

I am the Clinical Director at MHM/Bay Colony Extended Care Service. We provide comprehensive mental health services to the residents of about 125 nursing home facilities in the state of Massachusetts, and we employ about 100 professional clinicians, 60% of which are licensed social workers.

The social workers we employ are trained, and exceptionally skilled psychotherapists who have made a purposeful professional career choice to provide psychotherapeutic services to the medically and psychiatrically frail and compromised older population. In doing so, they also provide consultation and support to the nursing home staff who are extremely challenged in providing front line care to this needy population.

If this consolidated billing requirement for skilled nursing facilities by Medicare includes social workers, the impact will have an enormously destructive effect on systems and services; i.e.:

Our services to these residents will be decimated in terms of available and acceptable trained professionals.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

60% of our case load of frail aging nursing home residents, most in their last years of life will lose services. (This is the population who are most intensely affected by severe emotional distress, or progressive dementia and in need of management consultation intervention).

60 to 70 social workers will be unemployed from our program. (I speculate about 200 to 400 additionally from other services in Massachusetts).

The assumption for this Medicare consolidated billing requirement, I believe, is that it is a cost saving device. In all actuality, in terms of mental health services, the costs will ultimately increase for Medicare. Programs, like ours, will be forced to employ only doctorate level psychologists who are exempt from this consolidated billing. Medicare reimburses psychologists at a higher rate than social workers for the same billing code.

In closing, I need to emphasize that our services are essential for the fundamental well-being of this population and that our social workers are the foundation of our services.

My staff and I thank you for your leadership in expending this so rapidly. I am available for contact if further efforts are needed.

Sincerely,

MURIEL ELLMAN,
Clinical Director, Extended Care Service.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY: A NATIONAL DAY OF CELEBRATION

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I want to join with my colleagues tonight to pay special recognition to this anniversary of the independence of Greece. This year, we join together again to honor the hard won independence of a land that will forever hold a special place in American culture. Also, I want to take this opportunity to thank Representatives BILIRAKIS and MALONEY for their efforts to organize the House's celebration of this event tonight.

Mr. Speaker, more than 2,500 years ago the people of Greece began to formulate the ideas that now serve as the foundation for our system of government, science, philosophy, law, literature, and art. The gift of Greek culture to the world, and the special debt this nation owes to Greece, is priceless. The Greek tradition that began in the mists of time with Homer led to the Golden Age and later to the intellectual and aesthetic enrichment of the Roman Republic and Empire, the European Renaissance, and our own nation's founding principles.

We also share with Greece the triumphant experience of fighting for and winning independence. In 1821, after nearly 2,000 years of foreign rule, the people of Greece rose up and declared their independence from the Ottoman Empire. After nearly a decade of struggle, the Greek people won their freedom. Their cause was celebrated throughout the democratic world at the time, and continues to inspire us today.

Greece has contributed to this nation in other ways. It is difficult to find areas of this country where Greek-Americans have not contributed to the betterment of their communities.

In my own area of Southern California, the vibrant Greek-American community has enriched all our lives. Recently, I was honored to take part in the annual celebration of the Hellenic-American Council of Southern California. Through this and many other excellent organizations, the Greek-American community has made important contributions to the United States.

In the Second World War, Greeks fought with Americans to turn back Nazi and Fascist aggression. After that war, Greece remained on the side of freedom and democracy, serving as an early bulwark against the spread of communist totalitarianism. The assistance provided to Greece beginning under the Truman Doctrine and later continued within the NATO alliance continued the strong link between our nations. This cooperation continues today, as both nations face the instability in the Balkans and other threats to peace in the region.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my sincere good wishes to the people of Greece and those of Greek heritage on this happy occasion.

COPYRIGHT TERM EXTENSION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2589) to amend the provisions of title 17, United States Code, with respect to the duration of copyright, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 2589, the "Copyright Term Extension Act of 1997" and of the Sensenbrenner amendment.

H.R. 2589 will extend existing U.S. copyrights for another 20 years. It will also align U.S. copyright laws with those in many European nations and in so doing prevent American creations from falling into the public domain while the works of authors in other countries are still being protected.

H.R. 2589 will benefit our nation's authors, songwriters, and other copyright holders who would enjoy 20 or more years of ownership rights and profits from their works. It is important that we recognize the contributions of our artistic community in this way. Artists who are talented or fortunate enough to see their work released to the public are entitled to retain control over that work, or at the very least continue to share in the financial benefits associated with it. This basic principle of copyright law becomes no less valid because a time limit set decades ago expires.

Our rapidly developing society means that information—and in fact the artistic properties we deal with in this matter—are readily accessible and exploited once in the public domain. This bill adequately strikes a balance between the interests of the creators and of the consumers of artistic works.

I support any effort here to ensure better compensation of those artists who do not currently benefit from the collective bargaining agreement struck in the early 1960's. Of course we must respect that agreement and its limitations, but we must also provide for fair

compensation of those artists whose work brings great profits to the copyright holders.

I also urge support for the Sensenbrenner amendment which will protect small businesses from the "double dipping" that would occur if small businesses had to pay fees already paid by radio and television stations. The amendment will not exempt small businesses from fees for playing compact discs or other recorded music. This amendment will protect our small—and often minority—businesses from the crushing burden of payment of these fees.

A TRIBUTE TO JERRY O. RAINER

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, April 3, 1998 marks the conclusion of a remarkable term of service to Kentucky and our Nation. After a 34-year career, Jerry O. Rainer will retire from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as the Deputy District Engineer for Project Management of the Nashville District.

During his tenure and under his leadership, this country has witnessed the construction of some of its largest public works, all bearing Jerry's combination of engineering skill, a drive to accomplish complex projects, a dedication to serving the customer, and an admirable public reserve.

The constituents of Kentucky's Fifth Congressional District will remain in debt to Jerry for his stewardship of the massive flood control works now nearly complete along the Upper Cumberland River. Thousands of citizens now live and work without fear of being washed out of their homes and businesses, owing their newfound security to these projects and the people who prosecuted them under Jerry's day to day leadership.

Kentucky's most revered statesman, Henry Clay, is remembered among other things for emerging early in his U.S. Senate career as a spokesman for a system of federally funded improvements to our Nation's infrastructure. Clay's American System was an ambitious program of roads and canals needed to nurture our young union into an economically self-reliant nation.

The work that Clay championed is not unlike that which Jerry has been critical in implementing during his career with the Corps of Engineers: the massive Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, the rehabilitation of Wilson Lock, the Piney Grove Recreation Area, the Upper Cumberland River Flood Prevention Project, and the new lock at Kentucky Dam. These and many other works are proof positive of the dedication and experience which Jerry has applied to the benefit of thousands of citizens living within communities served by the Nashville Corps District.

In recognition of his performance, Jerry is the recipient of no less than 21 service awards, including the Meritorious Civilian Service Award for outstanding leadership and management skills. And though a native of Mississippi and a life long Tennessean, we in Kentucky are proud to claim Jerry as one of our own.

The citizens of Kentucky and the House of Representatives thank and congratulate Jerry